

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY EUR/EE:I M SILINS
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TO AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 114280

FOR SIMONS FROM ANDREWS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OGEN, RO

SUBJECT: OFFICIAL/INFORMAL

1. JEWISH EMIGRATION. YOU SHOULD HAVE BY NOW A COPY OF A LETTER FROM JACOB BIRNBAUM TO SENATOR RIBICOFF (POUCHED TO YOU APRIL 17). BIRNBAUM'S LOGIC IS NOT ALWAYS RIGOROUS; HE FAILS TO REALIZE, FOR EXAMPLE, THAT THE INCREASE IN EMIGRATION TO THE FRG CAME ABOUT BECAUSE OF SIGNIFICANT FRG FINANCIAL INCENTIVES, NOT "PRESSURE" -- BUT HIS LETTER DOES GIVE US MORE SPECIFICS TO GO ON THAN MOST SUCH EFFORTS. WE WERE PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN THE LIST OF ROMANIAN JEWS WHO BIRNBAUM SAYS WERE VICTIMS OF SCAPEGOAT TRIALS. WE ALREADY HAVE A FILE ON ADALBERT ROSINGER, AND WE PRESUME THE OTHERS ARE IN A SIMILAR SITUATION: HAVING BEEN CONVICTED OF SOME ECONOMIC CRIME, THEY ARE NOW STUCK UNTIL THEY CAN PAY OFF AN ENORMOUS "FINE" FROM A MEAGER PENSION. FROM AN ECONOMIC POINT OF VIEW, IT MAKES NO SENSE FOR THE GOR TO
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HOLD THEM; THEY REPRESENT A NET LOSS TO THE STATE. WE SEE SOME MERIT IN YOUR DISCUSSING THEIR SITUATION WITH THE ISRAELI EMBASSY TO SEE WHAT ADDITIONAL INFORMATION THEY MIGHT HAVE AND WHAT THE ISRAELIS HAVE ALREADY DONE ON BEHALF OF SUCH PEOPLE. WE COULD CERTAINLY SUPPORT AN ISRAELI INITIATIVE TO SEEK SOME SORT OF AMNESTY, BUT SINCE WE PRESUME THAT MOST OR ALL OF THOSE WHO WOULD BENEFIT FROM SUCH

AN AMNESTY WOULD EMIGRATE TO ISRAEL, WE WOULD NOT WANT TO TAKE THE LEAD WITHOUT SUCH AN ISRAELI INITIATIVE. DURING YOUR DISCUSSION WITH THE ISRAELI EMBASSY, YOU COULD ALSO MAKE ANOTHER STAB AT FINDING OUT HOW THE EMIGRATION QUESTION WAS HANDLED DURING DAYAN'S VISIT. AS WE INFORMED YOU SEPTEL, AMBASSADOR NICOLAE CLAIMED AGREEMENT HAD BEEN REACHED TO SOLVE THE EMIGRATION PROBLEM "IN TWO YEARS". ANY LIGHT YOU CAN SHED ON THIS COMMENT WOULD BE WELCOME, ESPECIALLY SINCE JEWISH EMIGRATION FIGURES CONTINUE TO DECLINE.

2. AS A RELATED ITEM, CONGRESSMAN WAXMAN'S OFFICE IS CALLING US PERIODICALLY ABOUT SOME NOTES ON THE JEWISH SITUATION IN ROMANIA THAT CYRUS GILBERT ABBE IS SAID TO HAVE LEFT WITH JOE LEVY FOR FORWARDING BY POUCH. WE HAVE POINTED OUT THAT THE DIPLOMATIC POUCH IS NOT INTENDED FOR SUCH A PURPOSE, NOR HAVE WE SEEN ANY SIGN OF SUCH MATERIALS. ON THE OTHER HAND, IF ABBE DID PASS ON SOME OBSERVATIONS TO LEVY, PERHAPS WE COULD SHARE THEM WITH THE CONGRESSMAN. PLEASE ADVISE.

3. AS YOU PROBABLY KNOW, WE SEND YOU COPIES OF OUR REPLIES TO CONGRESSIONAL CORRESPONDENCE ON EMIGRATION TO ISRAEL. CAN YOU TELL US WHAT YOU DO WITH THESE CASES? DO YOU PASS THE INFO ON TO THE ISRAELI EMBASSY AND/OR BADESCU OR DO
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YOU FILE IT AWAY? I HAVE NEVER UNDERSTOOD IF THERE IS A CLEAR PROCEDURE CONCERNING CASES OF EMIGRATION TO ISRAEL WHICH COME TO OUR ATTENTION.

4. WE BELIEVE THE WHITE HOUSE PACKAGE YOU RECEIVED IN THE POUCH FOR AMBASSADOR AGGREY IS AN AUTOGRAPHED PICTURE OF THE CARTERS FOR PRESIDENT CEAUSESCU. REGRET CONTENTS WERE NOT IDENTIFIED. SUGGEST YOU OPEN IT TO VERIFY BEFORE DELIVERING. CHRISTOPHER

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